

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session
and Closed Executive Session

March 18, 2014

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 4:35 pm on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Kristi Swett, Vice President Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young, and Lavenita Vaitai, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Craig Ruesch, Interim Executive Director Human Resources; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Kenneth Grover, Director, Career and Technology Education and Secondary School Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Joann Price, ELP Supervisor and Elementary School Support; Principals Dan Bergman, Emerson Elementary School, Jana Edward, Jackson Elementary School, Jane Larson, Parkview Elementary School, and James Martin, Mountain View Elementary School; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Lisa Schencker, *Salt Lake Tribune*; Tina Hatch, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Study Session of March 18, 2014, two motions were made. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Swett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:35 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

*(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, personnel, and property items.

**(Sandberg and Young)

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Present for Closed Session were Kristi Swett, Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, Kristina Kindl, and John Robson, board legal counsel from Fabian Attorneys at Law.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. and returned to the Board Study Session at 5:03 p.m.

| VOTE RECORD | AYE | NAY | ABSENT |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------|
| BENNETT | X | | |
| CLÁRA | X | | |
| EMERY | X | | |
| NELSON | X | | |
| SWETT | X | | |
| SANDBERG | X | | |
| YOUNG | X | | |
| A Absent | Ab Abstention | F Failed | |
| N "No" Vote | NA No Action | T Tabled | |
| W Withdrawn | *Unanimous Approval | | |
| **Members Making Motion | | | |

2. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience and noted the earlier meeting time was to accommodate attendance at Caucus Meetings.
- Jana Edward led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Josh Whisenant, the 2014-2015 Student Board Member, was scheduled to be introduced. Due to a conflict with a school activity he will be introduced at the April 1 Board Business Meeting.
- President Swett discussed the request to expand the scope of the audit by Squire and Company to include the Request for Proposal (RFP) for School Lunch Accounting System software in 2013. She referred to a letter from Mr. Clára that had been forwarded to all board members, which requested the expansion of the audit. She distributed a letter to the board from Janet Roberts which explained the RFP process for School Lunch Accounting System software, as well as the reasons Horizon Software International LLC was chosen. Board members discussed whether the expansion of the audit was necessary, as well as the possible costs associated with expanding the audit. While expressing his concerns, Mr. Clára deviated from the topic of the audit, and President Swett called a Point of Order to return the discussion to the expansion of the audit. Several board members expressed concern over spending more on the audit when it seemed board policy had been followed, and there had been a twelve person committee who determined Horizon was the best choice for the School Lunch Accounting System software. The board reiterated that if necessary, the audit could be expanded to include all schools in the district.

Board members agreed to add the expansion of the audit to include the Request for Proposal for School Lunch Accounting System software to the Action Agenda for the April 1 Board Business Meeting. Copies of the letters from Mr. Clára and Ms. Roberts have been included in the official minutes.

President Swett called for a ten minute recess at 5:25 p.m. The Board Study Session resumed at 5:34 p.m.

- Limited Consent Agenda

*(2) A motion was made that the board approve the two items included in the Limited Consent Agenda. These items are listed below.

**(Bennett and Young)

- a. The Purchasing Report dated March 18, 2014, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, and an increase to an existing purchase order.
- b. Appointment of Josh Whisenant, 2014-2015 Student Board Member.

A. STUDY TOPICS

1. Student Achievement Plan – School Choice. Patrick Garcia thanked the board for the opportunity to talk to them about School Choice. He introduced Dessie Olson, Education Specialist, World Languages; Principals Jane Larson, Parkview Elementary School; James Martin, Mountain View Elementary School; Jana Edward, Jackson Elementary School; and Dan Bergman, Emerson Elementary School.

Dr. Garcia referred to a memo titled “2010-15 Student Achievement Plan – School Choice Report” and to a Powerpoint presentation. He said the Choice Catalog was combined with the Winter Community Education Catalog and mailed to all homes in the district, noting monetary savings and a greater number of Open Enrollment applications as a result. He said the challenge now is to accept more Open Enrollment applications in the schools without negatively impacting other neighboring schools.

Dr. Garcia reported on the School Choice Essential goal for the 2013-14 school year, and said School Support has been exploring options for hiring an additional teacher or two at all district schools. He said the emphasis for hiring new teachers would be increased science or world languages instruction at each elementary school, providing additional collaboration time for teachers, and extending the amount of instructional time for students. He discussed the costs involved, as well as grants and reallocation of funds to cover the costs. He asked Principal Martin to discuss the extended day at Mountain View Elementary School. Dr. Martin explained the use of paraprofessionals for PE, health, and music rotations during the day, which open schedules for teachers. He said the openings in teachers’ schedules allow additional planning and Professional Learning Community (PLC) time during the week, rather than on Friday. He said Mountain View no longer has a short day on Friday, and students and staff are adjusting to the change. He explained the reallocation of money to cover the costs involved, and talked about the challenges of covering for paraprofessionals who are absent, and of ensuring the quality of all rotations.

Ms. Olson explained the elementary Statewide Dual Immersion model, noting students are taught all subjects for one-half of each day in English, and one-half of each day in the target language. She described the benefits to students of learning a second language, as well as learning about another culture. She said in addition to SAGE testing that all students

participate in, Dual Immersion students will also be tested for language proficiency starting in the third grade.

Ms. Edward told the board about the experience of Jackson Elementary School during their first year of adopting the state's Dual Immersion model. She said Jackson has adapted the model to meet the needs of their students, including maintaining their native languages. She said Jackson is working to focus on students becoming bilingual and multicultural. She said there is less mobility in students enrolled in the Dual Immersion program, and Dual Immersion students outperform other students on standardized tests. She said Jackson has provided more access to students, and she hopes the program will be maintained as students move into higher grade levels.

Mr. Bergman said students at Emerson Elementary School thrive in the Dual Immersion and International Pathways programs. He said he would like to have a neighborhood school strand of the Dual Immersion program, in addition to the Extended Learning Program strand they currently offer. He said Emerson is training students to become leaders in their community, and it makes sense to have Dual Immersion programs in an area which is already multi-lingual. He said there are several teachers from different nations who teach at Emerson. He also said he would like to see increased rigor in the state's model of the Dual Immersion program.

Dr. Martin said the Dual Immersion program at Mountain View started as a bilingual program and targeted native Spanish speakers. He said the school has incorporated the state model, the teachers are supportive, and Mountain View's staff is grateful for the support from the state. He said students in the Dual Immersion program have participated from kindergarten through second grade, and he noted third grade will be included in the state model next year, as the students move up.

Ms. Larson introduced the Dual Immersion teachers from Parkview Elementary School, Carmen Edgel, kindergarten; Polly Pearson-Terry, second grade; and Aleicia Jones, third grade. She said Parkview uses the student's first language to support acquiring a second, and the school makes every effort to make sure students don't lose their culture. She said parental participation has been amazing, parents register their children quickly, and students stay with the program. She said the bilingual program at Parkview helps build a very close community, and creates and fosters students who are bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural. She said students receive instruction for one-half of each day in English, and one-half of each day in Spanish, with the academic content switching languages each week so students receive all content in both languages.

Ms. Olson said the state is committed to funding the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program at the secondary level. She said as of February there is a new secondary model. She said in the new model, sixth grade will maintain the current sixth grade curriculum, and the state will fund the DLI program starting in the seventh grade. She said this will include access to SCOLA, a language program which provides authentic language materials outside of school time. She said secondary students will be expected to take ownership of their language learning. She said the state will assess students in third grade, in sixth grade, and in eighth grade, to identify the path students should follow. She said Pathway A will allow

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students to take 3000 level courses while in high school, and will provide most of the credits necessary for a minor in a foreign language upon graduation. She also said students will be able to earn a Seal of Biliteracy at graduation.

The board thanked the Dr. Garcia and his staff for their presentation. Copies of Dr. Garcia's memo and presentation have been included in the official minutes.

2. Budget Development. Due to time restrictions, Janet Roberts postponed her presentation until the April 1 Board Business Meeting.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates.

New Laws. Superintendent Withers postponed his update regarding new laws until the April 1 Board Business Meeting.

Ms. Emery asked if district directories were available in paper form. Superintendent Withers said the directory is now available online. He said he would send all board members a link to the directory.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

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